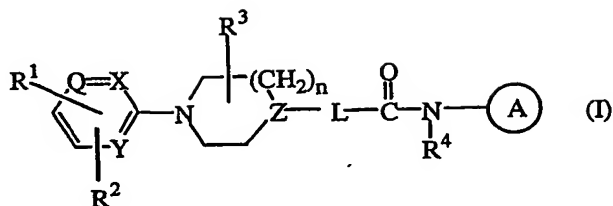


Claims

1. A compound of formula (I),



the *N*-oxide forms, the pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts and the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

10  $n$  is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and when  $n$  is 0 then a direct bond is intended;

each Q is nitrogen or  $\text{---C=}$ ;

each X is nitrogen or  $\text{---C=}$ ;

each Y is nitrogen or  $\text{---C=}$ ;

each Z is nitrogen or  $\text{---CH=}$ ;

20  $R^1$  is  $\text{---C(O)NR}^7R^8$ ,  $\text{---N(H)C(O)R}^9$ ,  $\text{---C(O)---C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediylSR}^9$ ,  $\text{---NR}^{10}\text{C(O)N(OH)R}^9$ ,  $\text{---NR}^{10}\text{C(O)C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediylSR}^9$ ,  $\text{---NR}^{10}\text{C(O)C=N(OH)R}^9$  or another Zn-chelating-group

wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxy $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, amino $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl or aminoaryl;

25  $R^9$  is independently selected from hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkylcarbonyl, aryl $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkylpyrazinyl, pyridinone, pyrrolidinone or methylimidazolyl;  
 $R^{10}$  is independently selected from hydrogen or  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

30  $R^2$  is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, amino, nitro,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl, di( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, hydroxyamino or naphthalenylsulfonylpyrazinyl;

35  $R^3$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, hydroxy $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, aryl $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, aminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, amino $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, aminocarbonyl $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxycarbonyl $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkylamino $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl or di( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

when Z is equal to nitrogen, then -L- is a direct bond;

when Z is equal to  $-\text{CH}-$ , then -L- is -NH- or the bivalent radical

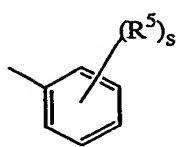
$-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediylnH}-$ ;

5

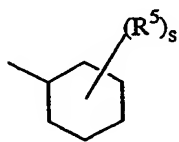
$\text{R}^4$  is hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl, hydroxy $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl, di( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl or aryl;

 is a radical selected from

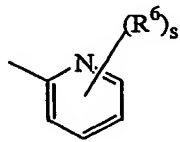
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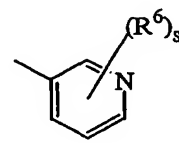
(a-1)



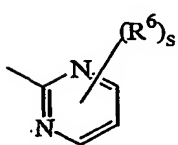
(a-2)



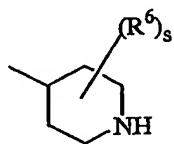
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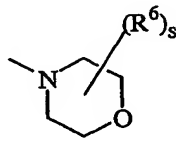
(a-4)



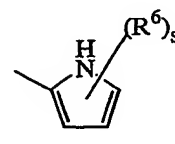
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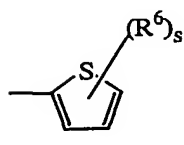
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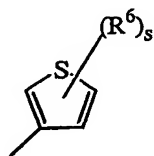
(a-7)



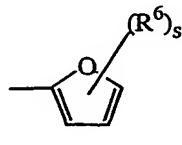
(a-8)



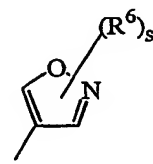
(a-9)



(a-10)

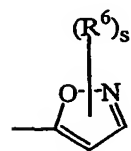


(a-11)

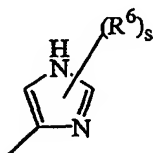


(a-12)

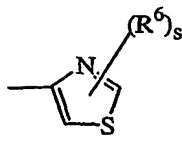
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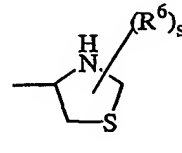
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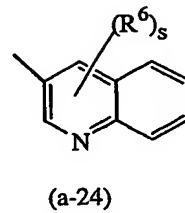
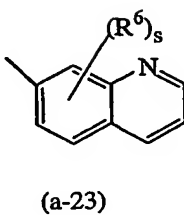
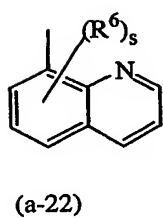
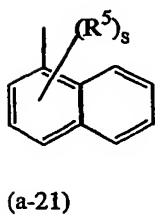
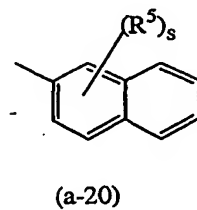
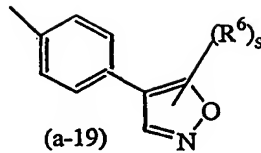
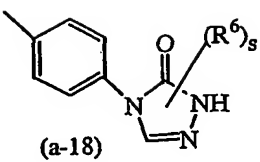
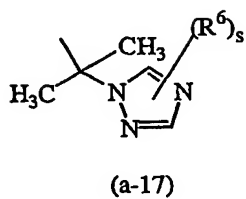
(a-14)



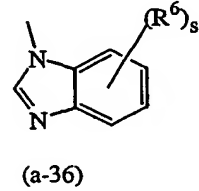
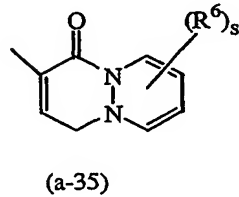
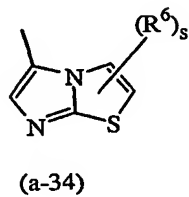
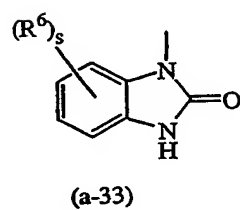
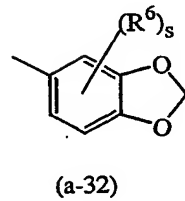
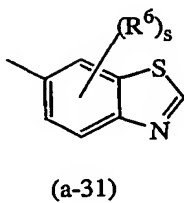
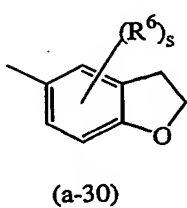
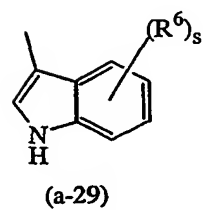
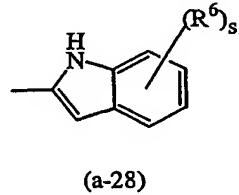
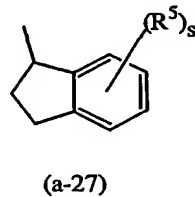
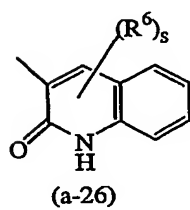
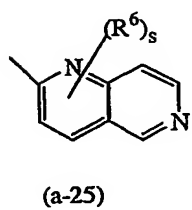
(a-15)



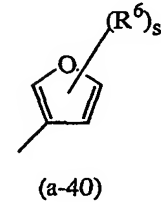
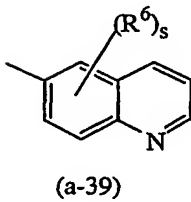
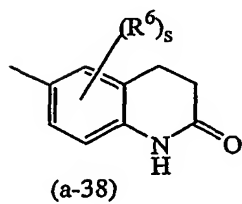
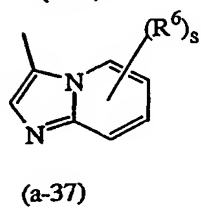
(a-16)

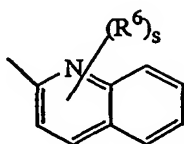


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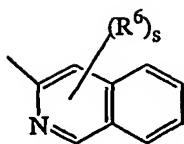


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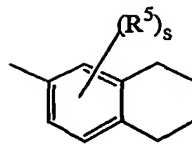




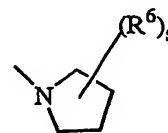
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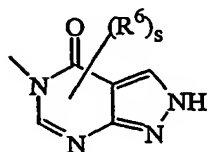
(a-42)



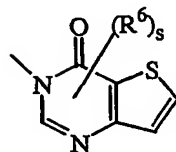
(a-43)



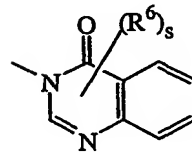
(a-44)



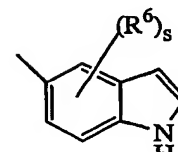
(a-45)



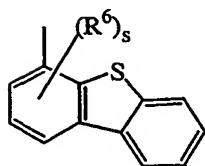
(a-46)



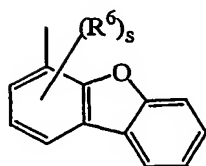
(a-47)



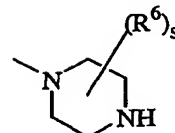
(a-48)



(a-49)



(a-50)



(a-51)

5

wherein each  $s$  is independently 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

each  $R^5$  and  $R^6$  are independently selected from hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro;

trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with aryl and

C<sub>3-10</sub>cycloalkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl;

10

C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonyl; cyanoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino; aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyl; di(hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino; (aryl)(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; arylsulfonyl; arylsulfonylamino;

15

aryloxy; aryloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; arylC<sub>2-6</sub>alkenediyl; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

20

aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; cyano; thiophenyl;

thiophenyl substituted with di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

25

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,

di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,  
 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxypiperidinyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxypiperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, morpholinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or di(hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 furanyl; furanyl substituted with hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; benzofuranyl; imidazolyl;  
 5 oxazolyl; oxazolyl substituted with aryl and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyltriazolyl; tetrazolyl;  
 pyrrolidinyl; pyrrolyl; piperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; morpholinyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylmorpholinyl;  
 morpholinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy;  
 morpholinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; morpholinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino;  
 morpholinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; piperazinyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinyl;  
 10 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; piperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 naphtalenylsulfonylpiperazinyl; naphtalenylsulfonylpiperidinyl; naphtalenylsulfonyl;  
 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino;  
 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylsulfonyl;  
 aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; aminosulfonylpiperazinyl;  
 15 aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinyl;  
 di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinyl;  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxypiperidinyl;  
 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxypiperidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; piperidinylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino;  
 piperidinylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 20 (C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylamino;  
 (C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinyl;  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 (hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino; (hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 25 hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; di(hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 pyrrolidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; pyrrolidinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; pyrazolyl; thiopyrazolyl; pyrazolyl  
 substituted with two substituents selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, aryloxy or aryl; pyrimidinyl;  
 tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinyl; tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  
 30 quinolinyl; indolyl; phenyl; phenyl substituted with one, two or three substituents  
 independently selected from halo, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy,  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethyloxy, hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy,  
 C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl,  
 aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino,  
 35 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyl, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino,

- di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino,  
 aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino,  
 5 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylamino(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, cyano,  
 piperidinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, pyrrolidinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, aminosulfonylpiperazinyl,  
 aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinyl,  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxypiperidinyl,  
 10 C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxypiperidinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinyl,  
 hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 (hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, (hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)amino, di(hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, furanyl, furanyl  
 substituted with -CH=CH-CH=CH-, pyrrolidinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, pyrrolidinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy,  
 15 morpholinyl, morpholinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, morpholinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 morpholinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, morpholinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, piperazinyl,  
 C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, piperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino,  
 C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinyl,  
 20 tetrahydropyrimidinylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, piperidinylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino,  
 piperidinylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 (C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino,  
 (C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylpiperidinyl)(hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 pyridinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy,  
 25 hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, hydroxyC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl,  
 di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino, aminothiadiazolyl,  
 aminosulfonylpiperazinylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxy, or thiophenylC<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino;  
 each R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> can be placed on the nitrogen in replacement of the hydrogen;
- 30 aryl in the above is phenyl, or phenyl substituted with one or more substituents each  
 independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano or  
 hydroxycarbonyl.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein  
 35 each Z is nitrogen;  
 R<sup>1</sup> is -C(O)NR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>, -C(O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediylSR<sup>9</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>C(O)N(OH)R<sup>9</sup>,  
 -NR<sup>10</sup>C(O)C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediylSR<sup>9</sup>, -NR<sup>10</sup>C(O)C=N(OH)R<sup>9</sup> or another Zn-chelating-  
 group

wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

$R^2$  is hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, amino, nitro, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, trifluoromethyl or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino;

5  $R^3$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, arylC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylaminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

$R^4$  is hydrogen;

10  $\text{---} \bigcirc \text{A}$  is a radical selected from (a-1), (a-3), (a-4), (a-5), (a-6), (a-7), (a-8), (a-9), (a-10), (a-11), (a-12), (a-13), (a-14), (a-15), (a-16), (a-17), (a-18), (a-19), (a-20), (a-21), (a-22), (a-23), (a-24), (a-25), (a-26), (a-28), (a-29), (a-30), (a-31), (a-32), (a-33), (a-34), (a-35), (a-36), (a-37), (a-38), (a-39), (a-40), (a-41), (a-42), (a-44), (a-45), (a-46), (a-47), (a-48) or (a-51);

each s is independently 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

15  $R^5$  is hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonyl; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; aryloxy; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino; cyano; thiophenyl; furanyl; furanyl substituted with hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; benzofuranyl; imidazolyl; oxazolyl; oxazolyl substituted with aryl and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

20 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyltriazolyl; tetrazolyl; pyrrolidinyl; pyrrolyl; morpholinyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylmorpholinyl; piperazinyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinyl; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkylpiperazinyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxypiperidinyl; pyrazolyl; pyrazolyl substituted with one or two substituents selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; pyridinyl; pyridinyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, aryloxy or aryl; pyrimidinyl;

25 quinolinyl; indole; phenyl; or phenyl substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy or trifluoromethyl; and

$R^6$  is hydrogen; halo; hydroxy; amino; nitro; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonyl; hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; aryloxy; di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino; cyano; pyridinyl;

30 phenyl; or phenyl substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from halo, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy or trifluoromethyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein n is 1; each Q is  $\text{---} \text{C} \begin{smallmatrix} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{smallmatrix}$ ;  $R^1$  is  $\text{---} \text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^7\text{R}^8$ , or  $\text{---} \text{NHC}(\text{O})\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkanediylSH}$  wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  are each

35 independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy or hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;  $R^2$  is hydrogen or nitro;  $R^3$  is hydrogen; when Z is equal to  $\text{---} \text{CH} \begin{smallmatrix} \diagup \\ \diagdown \end{smallmatrix}$ , then  $\text{---} \text{L}$  is the bivalent radical

-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediylNH-; R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or aryl;  $\text{---}\bigcirc\text{A}$  is a radical selected from (a-1) or (a-21); each s is independently 0, 1 or 2; and each R<sup>5</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen; halo; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; trihaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonyl; aryloxy, cyano or phenyl.

5

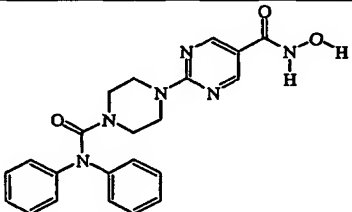
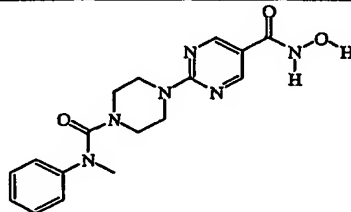
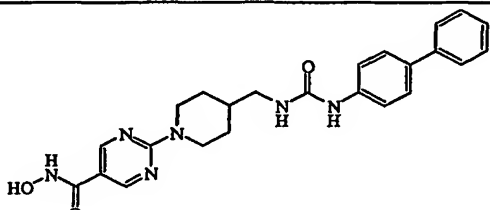
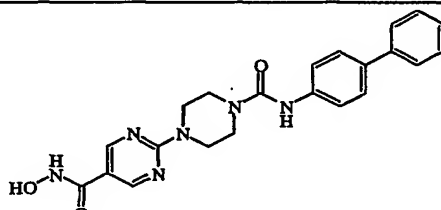
4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 and 3 wherein n is 1; each Q is  $\text{---}\text{C}\equiv$ ; each X is nitrogen; each Y is nitrogen; R<sup>1</sup> is -C(O)NH(OH); R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen; R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen; when Z is equal to  $\text{---}\text{CH}\text{---}$ , then -L- is the bivalent radical

-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediylNH-; R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or aryl;  $\text{---}\bigcirc\text{A}$  is the radical (a-1); each s is independently 0 or 1; and each R<sup>5</sup> is independently selected from hydrogen or phenyl.

10

5. A compound according to claim 1, 3 and 4 selected from compounds No. 4, No. 48, No. 5 and No. 6.

15

	
Co. No. 4	Co. No. 48
	
Co. No. 5	Co. No. 6

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and as an active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 to 5.

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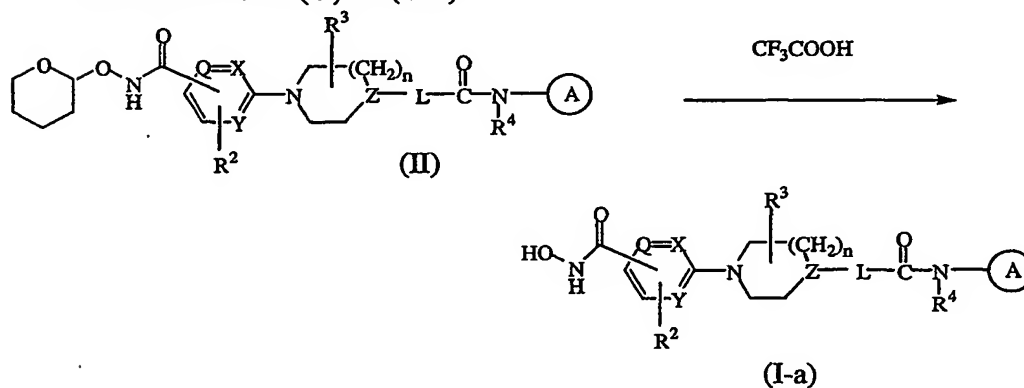
7. A process of preparing a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 6 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and a compound as claimed in claim 1 to 5 are intimately mixed.



8. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 for use as a medicine.
9. Use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of proliferative diseases.

5

10. A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized by reacting an intermediate of formula (II) with an appropriate acid, such as for example, trifluoro acetic acid, yielding a hydroxamic acid of formula (I-a), wherein  $R^1$  is  $-C(O)NH(OH)$ .



10

11. A method of detecting or identifying a HDAC in a biological sample comprising detecting or measuring the formation of a complex between a labelled compound as defined in claim (I) and a HDAC.

15

12. A combination of an anti-cancer agents and a HDAC inhibitor as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.